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Russia's recognition of IEA paves ground for ties with other states: Afghan official

KABUL: Dr. Abdul Hay Qanit, Director of the Third Political Directorate of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said Wednesday that the recognition of the Islamic Emirate by the Russian Federation will pave the ground for stronger bilateral relations and open new avenues of cooperation with other countries.

The ministry said in a statement that Qanit made the remarks during a high-level academic session titled "Recognition of the Islamic Emirate by Russia and Future Opportunities," which was organized by the ministry's Center for Strategic Studies. Focusing on the background, drivers, and potential outcomes of this significant diplomatic development, the session highlighted the importance of Russia's recognition of the Islamic Emirate as a milestone in Afghanistan's foreign relations, according to the statement.

"Although the Islamic Emirate has maintained balanced and constructive engagement with many countries, Russia's recognition marks a crucial turning point that could pave the way for stronger bilateral relations and open new avenues of cooperation with other states as well," the statement quoted him as saying.

Qanit also reviewed the historical evolution of Russia's policy toward the Islamic Emirate, stating that while Moscow had initial concerns following the Emirate's return to power, those concerns have gradually been addressed over the past four years.

He further noted that the recognition has removed major obstacles that previously hindered political and economic cooperation between the two countries, adding that "Now, new and promising opportunities for collaboration in various fields have emerged."

The Kabul Times

Statement by the Spokesperson of the Islamic Emirate regarding the ruling of the so-called International Criminal Court

Once again, an institution operating under the name of the "International Criminal Court" has issued a declaration calling for the arrest and prosecution of certain leaders of the Islamic Emirate. Such announcements and baseless rhetoric cannot affect the firm determination and legitimate stance of the Islamic Emirate in any way.

We do not recognize any entity under the title of the "International Criminal Court," nor do we acknowledge any obligation toward it.

At a time when genocide is ongoing in Gaza, Palestine, by the Israeli Zionist regime and its foreign supporters—with hundreds of women and children being killed daily without reason right under the eyes of the so-called International Court—raising slogans about human rights, justice, and the court is a matter of shame and disgrace.

The leadership and officials of the Islamic Emirate have established unparalleled justice in Afghanistan based on the sacred laws of Islamic Sharia. Labelling the laws of Islamic Sharia as oppressive or against humanity, and threatening those who implement them with arrest and prosecution, is a clear expression of enmity and hatred toward the pure religion of Islam and its legal system, and it is an insult to the beliefs of all Muslims.

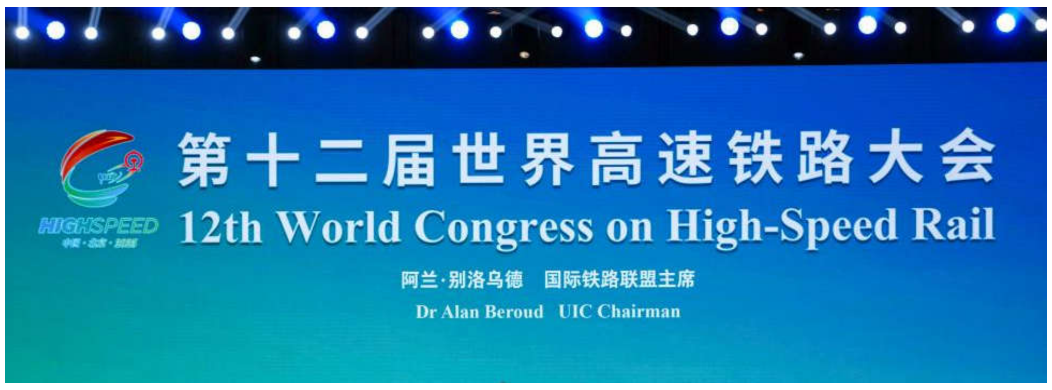
Central Bank governor meets IFSB secretary-general in Morocco

KABUL: Noor Ahmad Agha, the acting Governor of Da Afghanistan Bank, met with Dr. Ghiath Shabsigh, the Secretary-General of the IFSB in Morocco, discussing improving the management of Afghanistan's banking sector aligned with Shariah principles, DAB said in a statement Wednesday. The two sides discussed the improved implementation of Islamic banking standards based on Shariah principles, strengthening stability and sound management in both Islamic banking and non-banking sectors, promoting financial inclusion, enhancing capacity building, and the effective use of digitalization and financial technology (Fintech) are discussed for the upcoming year, the statement said. Noor Ahmad Agha and his accompanying delegation attended 23rd annual meeting of the Islamic Financial Services Board (IFSB), in Rabat, Morocco, where the existing global challenges regarding the promotion of Islamic banking and finance, along with related plans and practical measures to overcome these obstacles, have also been discussed, the statement added.

This meeting, hosted by Morocco's central bank (Bank Al-Maghrib), was attended by the governors, deputy governors, and representatives of 34 central banks from Islamic countries, including Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), the statement added.

The Kabul Times

Afghan delegation attends 12th World Congress on High-Speed Rail in China



Kabul: A high-level Afghan delegation led by Mawlavi Mohammad Ishaq Sahibzada, Deputy Minister of Railways of the Ministry of Public Works of the Islamic Emirate, attended the 12th World Congress on High-Speed Rail in China, the ministry said in a statement Wednesday.

This year's congress, hosted by China, was organized in three segments: general sessions, roundtables, and technical meetings, bringing together around 3,000 participants, including government officials, railway experts, researchers, and heads of leading railway companies from around the world, the statement said. The participants discussed the development of the railway industry, the growth of rail-based transportation, technical innovations, capacity building, the attraction of new investments, and review of current achievements in the rail sector, the statement added.

The latest advanced railway technologies were also showcased, helping shape a clearer vision for the future of global rail transport, according to the statement.

Afghanistan has been a member of the International Union of Railways (UIC) since December 12, 2013.

The Kabul Times

Efforts underway to replace electronic cards in all financial transactions, spokesman

KABUL: Hasibullah Noori, spokesman of Da Afghanistan Bank (DAB), the country's central bank, said Wednesday in a statement that efforts are underway to replace electronic cards in all financial transactions.

Noori said that the bank has been making efforts to reduce Afghanistan's dependence on cash by promoting the use of electronic payment systems, including bank cards and automated machines, as part of a broader financial modernization agenda.

He added that systems are being designed to enable users to carry out transactions See P4

Antimony, lead processing plant inaugurated in Maidan Wardak

MAIDANSHAR: The Governor's press office of Maidan Wardak said in a statement the other day that an antimony and lead processing plant worth $5 million has been inaugurated in the province, processing 60 tons of raw materials daily.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by Shaikh Noorul Haq Anwar, Director General of the Administrative Office, acting Minister of Mines and Petroleum, Mawlavi Hedayatullah Badri, representatives from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs, Governor Qari Bakhtiar Moaz, as well as numerous provincial officials, tribal elders, and investors, the statement said.

The processing plant has been constructed by an Afghan-Kyrgyz company on 25 acres of land and provides job opportunities for 400 individuals, the statement said.

Addressing the ceremony, the relevant officials reiterated the importance of utilizing Afghanistan's vast natural resources domestically to boost the economy independently.

"The Islamic Emirate is committed to processing local minerals inside the country to benefit our economy without reliance on foreign entities," they said. **The Kabul Times**

Scores of development projects launched in Samangan

KABUL: Construction work on 11 development projects worth 11 million Afghanis has been commenced in Hazrat Sultan district of Samangan province, the state-run Bakhter News Agency reported Wednesday.

These projects include the rehabilitation and gravelling of rural roads, the construction of a retaining wall, repairing a water supply network, building a water reservoir, and the development of four check dams and agricultural irrigation canals, the agency said.

The launch of the projects will create job opportunities for dozens of residents, the agency added. With successful completion, the projects are expected to significantly improve transportation access and address pressing issues related to drinking and irrigation water shortages in the district. **The Kabul Times**

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Food for thought

Today's generation guarantees our bright future

Human rights respected under Islamic Sharia

The so-called International Criminal Court once again announced a statement against the Islamic Emirate, calling for the arrest of certain leaders.

The Court, which merely acts for the superpowers, once again spread rumors accusing the Islamic system of violating human rights, particularly the rights of women and girls. This is while all human rights and the rights of women and girls are ensured in line with the Islamic Sharia. On the other hand, such remarks by any organization or malicious groups are just interference in the internal affairs of our country, something, the Islamic Emirate, since its resumption to power, has condemned.

The Islamic Emirate rejected the declaration of the so-called criminal court, saying: "Once again, an institution operating under the name of the 'International Criminal Court' has issued a declaration calling for the arrest and prosecution of certain leaders of the Islamic Emirate. Such announcements and baseless rhetoric cannot affect the firm determination and legitimate stance of the Islamic Emirate in any way."

"We do not recognize any entity under the title of the 'International Criminal Court,' nor do we acknowledge any obligation toward it. At a time when genocide is ongoing in Gaza, Palestine, by the Israeli Zionist regime and its foreign supporters—with hundreds of women and children being killed daily without reason right under the eyes of the so-called International Court—raising slogans about human rights, justice, and the court is a matter of shame and disgrace.

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The geopolitical myth of oil; global dependence & the coming crisis

In the early 20th century, a fierce competition began between Germany and the United Kingdom to control global resources—especially oil. Both powers, driven by the need to mobilize massive coal-powered war machines, turned their attention eastward toward oil-rich regions. This era marked the dawn of a new technological and geopolitical age, shifting the balance of power, reshaping consumption patterns, and creating new societal structures.

Oil, unlike coal, introduced a new kind of energy dependency. While coal had geographical and quantitative limitations, oil's vast yet finite reserves remained poorly discussed in public policy during the 20th century. This negligence allowed the global oil effect to remain underestimated and under-addressed.

Modern military technology—fighter jets, tanks, and armored vehicles—is heavily reliant on petroleum. If oil were to run out, these technologies would become obsolete. The concept of "peak oil" first emerged in 1970, defined as the theoretical point at which half of the world's known oil reserves have been extracted. From that point, production begins to decline.

Three crucial aspects underpin predictions about future oil production.

First is the cumulative production—how much oil has already been extracted. Second is reserve estimation, which involves determining how much oil remains in known fields. Third is a combination of expert judgment and geological analysis to estimate how much extractable oil is truly left in any given reservoir.

According to 2006 data, global oil reserves were estimated at 1.13 trillion barrels. Saudi Arabia led with 260 billion barrels, followed by Canada (179 billion), Iran (136 billion), Iraq (115 billion), Kuwait (99 billion), and others. The United States, despite being one of the largest consumers, had only 21 billion barrels in reserve.

Understanding the trajectory of global oil consumption requires examining the gap between discovery and production. Peak discovery occurred in the 1960s, and since then, major new oil finds have declined.

The last major oil field discovered was in Mexico in 1985. Most of today's oil producers rely on fields discovered before 1950, while global consumption has quadrupled.

Though companies continue exploring, newly discovered fields are smaller and less productive than previous ones. As a result, global oil production may already be past its prime, depleting what's left of the world's "black gold." Optimistic forecasts suggest oil could last until 2060, but more credible estimates believe global oil production began to peak around 2012.

If global oil production is indeed declining, the world must assess which countries have already reached their peak. Of the top seven producers, six are either in decline or nearing it. The U.S. peaked in 1971, the U.K. in 1998, and Norway in 2001. Iran is one of the few among top producers still with potential for expansion.

Other factors support the peak oil theory. For example, shale oil producers face difficulties in replenishing reserves, and existing fields are hard to replace. Companies such as BP have shifted to production-sharing agreements in existing areas like Russia, rather than investing in costly new explorations. Investment in oil discovery is shrinking, highlighting the industry's hesitance about long-term returns.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil exporter, is showing signs of stress in maintaining production levels.

Technical and industrial responses point to the nearing end of easily extractable oil in that region. Western foreign policy, particularly the U.S. approach to the Middle East and Asia—including countries like Afghanistan, India, and China—reflects increasing geopolitical anxiety over oil access.

The idea of "peak oil" became a geopolitical flashpoint. Many saw the concept as a strategic headache for major powers, especially as the reality of oil depletion became politically inconvenient. For Western nations, where reducing consumption remains taboo, the eventual scarcity of oil is an uncomfortable truth. They consume over 50% of the world's oil but produce less than a quarter of it.

For instance, the United States consumes about 25% of the world's oil while producing only 8%. This level of dependency has become increasingly untenable, especially considering the U.S. relies heavily on a small number of major oil fields. Despite the existence of thousands of operational oil fields worldwide, only 116 produce more than 100,000 barrels per day—accounting for 50% of global output. Many of these were discovered more than 25 years ago.

Major oil fields—such as Ghawar in Saudi Arabia, Burgan in Kuwait, Cantarell in Mexico, and Samotlor in Russia—are now in decline. The fall in production from these giant fields will cause significant supply disruptions, which cannot be easily offset by smaller, less productive fields.

If U.S. consumption continues to rise, competition over dwindling energy resources will intensify. This raises the strategic value of oil-rich Islamic countries like Iraq, and partially explains the geopolitical motivations behind military interventions. The ongoing depletion of global oil reserves is, in part, a consequence of the West's overconsumption and underproduction, creating the conditions for an energy crisis.

While optimistic projections hope for a smooth transition, the harsh reality is that the world is entering a post-peak oil era. Without major breakthroughs in alternative energy and reduced consumption, geopolitical conflicts over oil may increase, and economic instability may deepen.

Ghulam Reza Omidi

Afghan refugees mass deportation; friend and foe should be distinguished

Emigration generally means leaving one place and going to another place. In terms of religion, emigration is the leaving of one's homeland and departure to other lands is a matter of preservation and strengthening of religious faith and belief.

Migration also means, changing the place of residence from one country to another. Usually, it takes place for various economic, social or political reasons.

In the last half century, Afghanistan has been witnessing aggression and war in different parts. These invasions and military aggressions after conquering our land have imposed thousands of pains and sufferings on our suffering people. The first Jihad of the people of Afghanistan was for the hosts, but the special Jihad and struggle of the people of Afghanistan during that period was extremely powerful. The world, especially our neighbors, were afraid of the existence, vastness of the land, and military power. Also, in the second period, they also waged Jihad with other powers. If the attackers came in two rounds, there was a fortress inside Kishor They suppressed them, they did not give them a chance to realize their terrible plans outside of Afghanistan.

Although the people of Afghanistan will never forget the support of the neighboring countries, especially Iran and Pakistan, who hosted the Afghans in difficult times, but they consider it against all human standards to wait for false and baseless accusations against an Afghan.

The war between India and Pakistan, as well as the barbaric attacks of the Zionist regime and its supporters on Iran and the support of the people of Afghanistan from neighboring countries and the willingness of our people to prevent the entry of refugees in the event of an escalation of the war, is a self-witness of this fact.

Therefore, the people of Afghanistan are waiting for the neighboring countries to exercise self-restraint during the deportation of Afghan refugees and know that the days are near when the economic problems will be overcome by themselves, because the signing of economic agreements in various fields with the countries of the region, especially in Central Asia, support for industrialists and the establishment of industrial cities, the initiation of national and regional projects, the construction of water dams, mining and thousands of other projects are effective in creating employment.

Rather, the problem of unemployment will be reduced to a minimum, and it will also cause the growth of the country's economy.

But the issue that is ultimately important for national traders, charitable institutions and general citizens in the current situation is that we should support and support our compatriots who have returned from neighboring countries, because our compatriots have gone through hard and difficult days. Part will increase hatred and disgust.

Sayed Sharif

Small businesses bloom in Helmand, fueling jobs & self-reliance

Afghanistan, which has long suffered from war, instability, unemployment, and social challenges, lagged behind in the natural course of economic development.

But now, it is gradually witnessing signs of positive change.

Across different parts of the country, people are trying to initiate economic activities using their small investments and innovations—not only to provide for their families, but also to create job opportunities for others.

Helmand province, once plagued by prolonged conflict and widespread violence, is now witnessing the growth of small businesses.

Residents of the province say that in the past two years, the number of small businesses has increased in cities, markets, and even remote areas, helping many unemployed youths find work.

In Lashkargah, the capital of Helmand province, Abdul Wali, who manages a vegetable stall, says that every day he visits nearby and far-off areas of the city, where he purchases large quantities of vegetables from farmers.

He then packages them and sends them not only to Lashkargah but also to neighboring provinces.

He says this work has benefited him personally, and he has also employed eight other people.

He adds that his goal was not only to earn for himself, but also to reduce unemployment and help farmers find a market for their produce.

"Every day, I go to nearby and far-off areas of the city, purchase a large amount of fresh vegetables from farmers, then package them and send them not only to Lashkargah but also to neighboring provinces.

I didn't start this business just for personal gain—I want to fight unemployment and help farmers access markets for their harvest. Now, eight other people also work with me, and we all earn a lawful livelihood."

Another Helmand resident, Javid Ahmad, started a small soap-making business around four years ago with just 50,000 Afghanis. Today, his business has grown to a value of one million Afghanis.

He says that six more people now work with him at the factory, and they earn a good monthly income.

He attributes the growth of his business to high-quality production.

"I started this business four years ago with only 50,000 Afghanis. Now, my small soap-making enterprise has reached a value of one million Afghanis. Six other people work with me, and we earn a good income every month.

The most important reason behind my business's growth is my focus on quality. I provide good products, which people like, and so a market has developed for them."

Meanwhile, several social activists also welcome the rise of small businesses.

They believe such businesses can pave the way for larger enterprises in the future.

Activist Rahmatullah Layiq calls on investors to begin with small businesses to gain experience in the trade sector.

"To bring social changes, we must start with small steps. Small businesses not only reduce the rate of unemployment but also serve as a means for gaining independence, experience, and expanding into larger businesses.

I urge those who have some capital to launch small businesses, because they are both practical and have long-term benefits."

Local officials in Helmand assure full support for business growth in the province.

Fazl Ahmad Fazli, head of the province's Industrial Parks Department, says that various efforts are underway to help grow small businesses in the region.

He adds that specific land will soon be allocated to small entrepreneurs.

"Small businesses have expanded significantly in Helmand. In collaboration with the Ministry of Industry and Commerce, 10 to 50 acres of land have been designated in each province to further develop these small enterprises."

He noted that they are witnessing the expansion of small businesses in Lashkargah, Nad Ali, Gereshk, and Khanashin districts, which reflects the public's growing economic awareness.

Small businesses are not only an important source of income for families, but also a practical solution to the unemployment crisis.

Ehsanullah Wolasmal

Establishing processing plants key to boosting economic growth

Establishing processing plants in our country is vital for economic growth, job creation, and long-term economic self-sufficiency. By processing raw materials domestically, such as agricultural products, minerals, and livestock, the country can significantly reduce dependency on imports and increase the value of its local products.

As Afghanistan emerges from decades of war and instability, the Islamic Emirate has succeeded in establishing overall security across the country over the past four years. This newfound stability has created a suitable environment for investment, particularly in the establishment of various types of material processing plants. These opportunities open the door for both domestic and international investors to tap into Afghanistan's rich natural resources, support industrial development, create jobs, and drive the country toward self-reliance and sustainable economic growth.

Referring to the establishment of processing plants, the Governor's press office of Maidan Wardak has said in a statement that an antimony and lead processing plant worth $5 million has been inaugurated in the province, processing 60 tons of raw materials and rocks daily.

The statement said that the processing plant has been constructed by an Afghan-Kyrgyz company on 25 acres of land and provides job opportunities for 400 individuals.

So, establishing such processing plants plays a crucial role in industrial development by creating employment opportunities for thousands of people, especially in rural areas. This not only improves livelihoods but also reduces migration to urban centers.

Moreover, processing plants encourage local investment and attract foreign investors who are looking for stable production hubs. They also contribute to boosting exports, which leads to increased national revenue and trade balance improvement.

Overall, investment in processing industries lays the foundation for a self-reliant, diversified, and resilient economy.

Therefore, the establishment of processing plants across Afghanistan is increasingly being recognized as a cornerstone for long-term economic development, job creation, and national self-sufficiency. As the country strives to move away from dependence on imports and raw commodity exports, investing in domestic processing facilities offers a practical and sustainable solution.

Afghanistan is rich in natural resources, including agricultural products, minerals, fruits, and livestock. However, due to the absence of sufficient processing infrastructure, most of these resources are exported in raw form, resulting in limited economic benefit. Establishing modern processing plants would enable value addition, increase export revenues, and reduce reliance on imported goods.

For example, the agricultural sector, which employs a significant portion of the population, would benefit enormously from agro-processing plants that can handle fruits, nuts, grains, and dairy products. These facilities not only extend the shelf life of produce but also create thousands of employment opportunities, particularly for youth and women.

In addition to economic benefits, processing plants encourage technology transfer, promote innovation, and support the emergence of a skilled workforce. They also stimulate the growth of related sectors such as packaging, transport, and logistics, thus creating a multiplier effect throughout the economy.

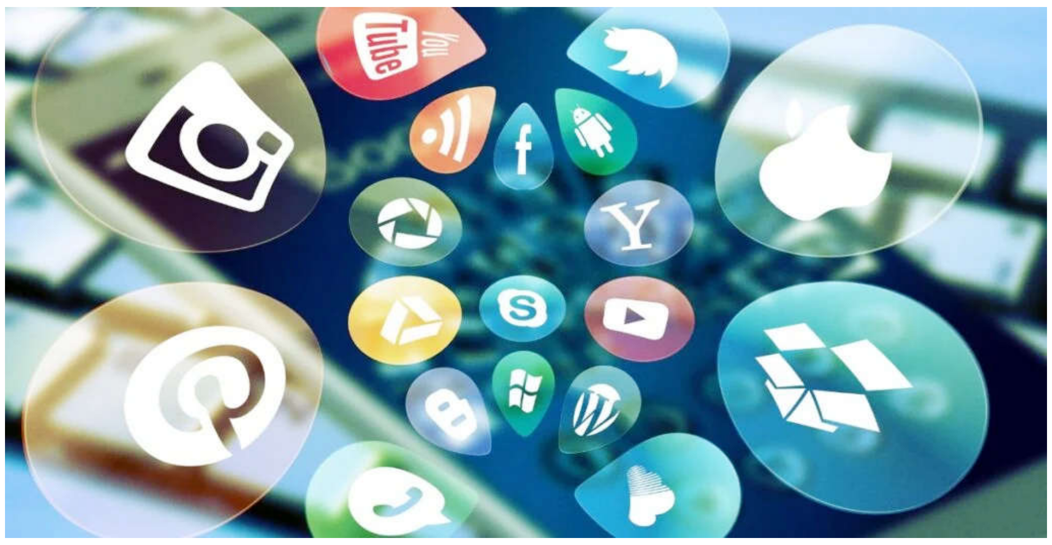
To make this vision a reality, the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan (IEA) and the private sector must collaborate to attract both domestic and foreign investment. This includes offering legal guarantees, land allocation, tax incentives, and access to energy and water for industrial zones. Furthermore, technical and vocational training must be prioritized to prepare a qualified workforce capable of operating and managing these facilities.

In conclusion, the establishment of processing plants is more than just an economic necessity, it is a strategic investment in Afghanistan's future. By transforming local resources into finished goods, the country cannot only boost its GDP and export potential but also take confident steps toward economic independence, stability, and national pride.

Nesar Tariq

The negative impacts of social media on one's moral and personality

Part II



Although some consider the dissemination of women's images, videos, and their performances as "artistic freedom", it is completely a modern form of sedition that is a direct attack on Islamic concepts of modesty, hijab and chastity.

Allah Almighty has instructed women to wear the hijab, and has also commanded men to do so: "Tell the believing men to reduce [some] of their vision and guard their private parts. That is purer for them.

Indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what they do". (An-Noor:30)

If women's beauty is put on display or their images are shared publicly, and their beauty and images not protected from the gaze of men, it is totally against the commandment of vice and virtue, and open gateway to inciting lust and spreading sedition.

Various social media platforms, such as TikTok, Instagram, and even YouTube, are clear examples, and they are spaces for displaying external beauty.

It sets the standards of a person's value based on appearance, voice, figure, and movements, rather than on morality, piety, and knowledge. Such contents are often shared in the name of entertainment, but its practical results are the decline of morality, intellectual negligence, and the strengthening of desires.

All of these factors have caused that social media is not permissible anymore, but in most cases, it has become forbidden, abhorrent, and a source of sin.

This is not just a matter of individual morality, but also a sensitive issue of the intellectual security of the entire Ummah, the prevention of sedition, and the preservation of its moral heritage.

Religious scholars and ulamas of Sharia must perceive this new temptation based on the Hanafi jurisprudence, and teach the ummah through contemporary language and concepts how this seemingly harmless tool can endanger a person's religion, intellect, morality, and even honor.

Therefore, according to Sharia, if the use of social media platforms causes evil deeds, temptation, lust, backbiting, slander, and obscenity, then this action becomes forbidden and haram, and it is obligatory to avoid it, because according to the Holy Quran, Hadith, and the principles of jurisprudence, it is subject to the path that leads to sin. Therefore, social media platforms should either be used for

See P4

Afghan Adverstisement

AA333

Tender Notice

The Ministry of Mines and Petroleum hereby invites all interested and qualified local and international companies to participate in the bidding process for large-scale mining contracts in the specified areas listed below.

All interested bidders may obtain the capability statement and prequalification questionnaire either by downloading them from the Ministry's official website (lsmmd.momp.gov.af) or by collecting them from the Large-Scale Mining Regulation Directorate of the Ministry of Mines and Petroleum, located at Macrorayan Square, Kabul, Afghanistan. Upon completion, the required forms must be submitted to the Bidding and Evaluation Department no later than **6 August 2025.**

Description of mining areas

No	Projects Name	District	Province	Mineral	Area km²
1	Shmal Zairat Kan Block	Dawlatabad	Faryab	Salt	1.40158
2	Gharbi Maimana Kan Block	Dawlatabad	Faryab	Salt	1.98917
3	Zairat Kan Block	Dawlatabad	Faryab	Salt	3.0875

Directorate of Large-Scale Mines Management

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SPORTS

IPL valued at $18.5 billion, world's richest cricket league

The Indian Premier League (IPL), one of the world's most popular cricket tournaments, has been valued at an estimated $18.5 billion, according to a recent report released by the American investment bank Houlihan Lokey. The report highlights the remarkable growth in the league's commercial value and revenue in recent years.

In the past year alone, the IPL generated nearly $4 billion in additional revenue, underlining its dominance not only in the cricketing world but also in the broader sports industry. The league's profitability stems from lucrative broadcasting deals, sponsorships, ticket sales, and merchandise, attracting massive global viewership each season.

Houlihan Lokey's analysis also identified Royal Challengers Bangalore (RCB) as the most valuable franchise in the league. RCB, currently holding the championship title, is valued at approximately $269 million. The team's financial and brand success reflects the growing importance of franchise cricket in the global sports economy.

Notably, the IPL includes players from across the world, including Afghanistan, whose cricketers have become prominent figures in the tournament. Their participation has not only elevated the league's diversity but also helped boost the profile of cricket in Afghanistan and other associate nations.

With its soaring revenues and expanding fanbase, the IPL stands out as the most lucrative cricket tournament globally, shaping the future of the sport through innovation, investment, and international collaboration.

The Kabul Times

New futsal gymnasium inaugurated in Kunduz

A new gymnasium dedicated to futsal was officially inaugurated in Kunduz City, aiming to promote and develop the sport in the province.

The inauguration ceremony was led by Qari Sayedurrahman Ghaznawi in collaboration with the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports of Kunduz Province. The opening match brought together local athletes, sports officials, and community members, who welcomed the new addition to the city's sports infrastructure.

Constructed over a period of three months, the gymnasium cost $40,000 USD and was built with the intention of encouraging youth participation in futsal and improving the overall standard of the game in the region.

Officials highlighted the importance of such initiatives in providing a safe and professional environment for young players to train and compete. "This gymnasium marks a significant step toward strengthening sports opportunities in Kunduz, especially for futsal enthusiasts," said a representative from the sports department.

Community members and players expressed their appreciation for the facility, calling it a much-needed venue that will foster both talent and healthy recreation. The project reflects the growing interest in futsal across Afghanistan and demonstrates local efforts to invest in youth development through sports. With the opening of this gymnasium, Kunduz joins a number of provinces making strides to support athletic infrastructure and youth engagement. **The Kabul Times**

Volleyball tournament wraps up in Balkh

A one-day volleyball tournament featuring four teams came to a successful conclusion in Mazar-e-Sharif, the capital of Balkh province. The event was organized by the Volleyball Federation under the Directorate of Physical Education and Sports of Balkh Province.

The tournament brought together four teams from the region, creating a competitive and energetic atmosphere for players and fans alike. After several intense matchups, the final showdown took place between Ittihad Balkh and Oqab-e-Shamal teams.

In a thrilling final match, Ittihad Balkh emerged victorious, narrowly defeating Oqab-e-Shamal with a match score of 1-0. The win earned Ittihad Balkh the championship title of the tournament.

Organizers stated that the primary aim of the competition was to encourage youth participation in sports, especially volleyball, and to identify talented players for future development. "Events like this are crucial for the growth of sports culture among young people in the province," said a representative from the organizing committee.

The matches were well-attended, with local spectators showing strong support for their teams throughout the day.

The tournament not only provided entertainment but also served as a platform to promote teamwork, discipline, and a healthy lifestyle among the youth of Balkh.

Officials from the Volleyball Federation expressed satisfaction with the successful conduct of the event and emphasized their commitment to holding more such tournaments in the future to further develop the sport in the region.

With the conclusion of this tournament, Ittihad Balkh walks away with the title, while the event itself is hailed as a step forward for youth engagement in sports within Balkh province.

The Kabul Times

Turabi meets Russian Ambassador for deepening relations

KABUL: Mullah Nooruddin Turabi, Head of the National Disaster Management Authority, met with Russian Ambassador Dmitry Zhirnov and his accompanying delegation in Kabul to discuss deepening cooperation between the two nations, the authority said in a statement Wednesday.

Turabi expressed gratitude for Russia's official recognition of the Islamic Emirate, calling it a "bold and positive step" toward fostering long-term partnership.

Highlighting Afghanistan's vulnerability to climate change, Turabi asked for additional Russian support in the form of food and non-food aid to assist affected communities across the country.

Meanwhile, Ambassador Zhirnov reaffirmed Russia's commitment to enhancing collaboration with Afghanistan and noted that the recent recognition symbolizes a new era of durable diplomatic and humanitarian engagement.

Both sides emphasized the need for continued coordination, especially in disaster management and other vital sectors.

The Kabul Times

At least 31 dead, 532 arrested in Kenya's antigovernment protests

The death toll from antigovernment protests in Kenya has surged to at least 31 people, the country's human rights commission said, with at least 107 others wounded during the nationwide marches.

In a statement on Tuesday, the National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR) also reported two forced disappearances in the wake of Monday's marches, which commemorated a 1990 uprising against undemocratic governance in the East African nation.

The commission, which initially gave a toll of 10 dead and 29 wounded, said it has also counted at least 532 arrests.

The marches saw clashes erupt between protesters and police in the capital, Nairobi, as well as the city of Eldoret, with the KNCHR accusing the police of cooperating with armed gangs, who were armed with machetes and spears, in the wake of the violence.

There was widespread destruction of property, too, including supermarkets.

The KNCHR said it "strongly condemns all human rights violations and urges accountability from all responsible parties including police, civilians and all other stakeholders".

Monday's marches marked Saba Saba Day, meaning Seven Seven, which celebrates the date when Kenyans rose up to demand a return to multi-party democracy on July 7, 1990, after years of rule by then-President Daniel arap Moi.

They came amid more than a year of mostly youth-led protests that have swept across Kenya since June 2024, when proposed tax rises triggered anger about wider issues, including the state of the economy, corruption and police brutality.

Protesters have also been calling on President William Ruto to resign. Their actions have been met with harsh repression from the police. The Law Society of Kenya and Police Reforms Working Group said that "heavily armed police with military grade weapons were deployed in violation of court orders, using masks and unmarked vehicles to conceal their identities".

Overall, the Police Reforms Working Group said that the protests on Monday took place in 20 of Kenya's 47 counties on Monday, including Nairobi, Kajiado, Nyeri, Mombasa, Kisii, Embu, Kisumu, Kiambu, Meru, Nakuru, Nyandarua, Vihiga, Narok, Kirinyaga, Uasin Gishu, Tharaka Nithi, Makueni, Laikipia and Kakamega.

Aljazeera

Bridge collapses in India, killing at least nine

At least nine people were killed after a bridge over a river collapsed in India's western Gujarat state on Wednesday, news agency Press Trust of India reported while quoting police officials.

Gujarat's Health Minister Rushikesh Patel said several vehicles were on the bridge when a portion of it collapsed, sending many into the river. He said at least five people were rescued.

The incident occurred in Gujarat's Vadodara district, which has witnessed heavy rains over the past few days. The bridge was constructed in 1985, Patel said.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi said the accident was "deeply saddening" and offered condolences to those who died.

India's infrastructure has long been marred by safety concerns, sometimes leading to major disasters on its highways and bridges.

In 2022, a century-old cable suspension bridge collapsed into a river in Gujarat, sending hundreds plunging into the water and killing at least 132.

Alarabiya

Efforts underway to replace electronic...

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through all types of automated payment technologies, a move aimed at improving transaction speed and reducing physical currency degradation.

"People will be able to use electronic cards for their financial transactions. This will help reduce the wear and tear of paper money and also improve transaction efficiency," he said.

The initiative, while modest in scope so far, signals the central bank's intention to shift Afghanistan's heavily cash-based economy toward a more digitally enabled financial ecosystem.

The Kabul Times

The negative impacts of social...

From P3

piety, invitation to Islam, knowledge, and reform, or it should be avoided as it is a sword that can be used for good or evil, and it depends on the intention, action, and content shared by its user.

From a rational and wisdom perspective, moral values are an important need of human nature.

The wisdom demands that a person should maintain his personality, honor, and dignity.

This situation is disturbed when a person gives up his own intellectual freedom and starts copying from others. Social media has created an atmosphere in which independence of thought is gradually eroding.

People are influenced by the actions of others without considering the consequences of their actions, in which young people are the most affected.

They have not yet reached intellectual maturity, but they have access to social media. When they watch videos in the name of fame, beauty, and entertainment, which are created against the Sharia, the message is sent to their minds that these actions are acceptable. A young person who would not normally do anything against the Sharia may do the same thing because of a trend on social media.

This is because he thinks that he will gain the approval of people.

Mohammad Qasim Azzam